

HB 1157 -- OFFICIAL STATE GAME BIRD

SPONSOR: Cooper (120)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Tourism by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill designates the bobwhite quail as the official state game bird.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bobwhite quail is found in every Missouri county and making it the official state game bird will bring it more recognition. They hope that increased recognition will encourage people to develop more habitats for the quail which will increase its numbers. Although quail is not an endangered species, their numbers are dwindling.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cooper (120); and Quails Unlimited.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that quail are a valuable game species in Missouri because they are insect predators. Bobwhite quail are not a nuisance animal. Increasing available quail habitats will increase habitats for other animals. The bobwhite quail population is declining from lack of habitats, not from over-hunting. Also, it's impossible to have too many quail.

Others testifying on the bill was the Department of Conservation.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst